



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Proclaims April 22-28 as Earth Week in Kentucky ***Annual awareness week centers on Division of Forestry's 100th Anniversary***

Frankfort, Ky. (April 20, 2012) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed April 22-28, 2012, as “Earth Week in Kentucky.” This year’s celebration focuses on the Division of Forestry’s 100th anniversary with the theme of “Celebrating Kentucky’s Forests.”

“Forestry’s monumental milestone of serving Kentuckians since 1912 is certainly something to celebrate and reflect upon,” said Gov. Beshear. “Historically, the division has enforced forest fire protection laws; provided fire suppression and technical assistance to private landowners and maintained a tree seedling service.

“Today, the division also provides public education, timber harvesting and forest health inspections. It’s appropriate to celebrate Kentucky’s forestry division that creates additional public awareness of how we can become better stewards of our forests.”

In recognition of Earth Day, Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) Secretary Len Peters Thursday visited the Early Learning Village in Frankfort where he read Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax,” which has a message about sustainability.

“Like the Lorax in the story, we all need to ‘speak for the trees’ and remember that our actions have consequences in nature,” Sec. Peters said.

The Cabinet donated two copies of the “The Lorax” to the school’s library and distributed willow oak tree seedlings to the students.

Sec. Peters praised forestry employees. “Hard work and dedication by division employees has helped sustain our forest resources for a multitude of benefits including scenic beauty, clean air and water, wildlife habitat and an economically-important forest industry.”

EEC is now judging 36 entries in its second annual “Capture the Earth” digital photography contest for Kentucky students in grades 6-8. This year’s competition

centers on this year's theme of "Celebrating Kentucky's Forests," which recognizes the Division of Forestry's centennial celebration. The winning photographer will receive two nights lodging at any Kentucky state resort park with his or her family, provided by the Kentucky Department of Parks.

The winning photographer will be announced the week of April 23, 2012.

For updated information and to learn more about the division's past, present and future, please visit the website at <http://forestry.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Photo Cutline: Dr. Len Peters, secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, reads "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss to a group of first graders at the Early Learning Village in Frankfort.